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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/965,405	09/26/2001	Tami L. Guy	10013329-1	3798

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EXAMINER

BUCHANAN, CHRISTOPHER R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 08/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/965,405

Applicant(s)

GUY ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher R Buchanan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Webber, Jr. alone.

With regard to claim 1, Webber discloses a method for a first organization (direct marketer in example, col. 12 line 43+) to do business that includes entering into a contractual relationship with a second organization (winery), authorizing the second organization to take an order from a customer, wherein the order is for products or services not produced by the first organization, receiving payment directly from the customer for the order (col. 12 line 48+), requiring an organization other than the first organization to ship orders to the customer (col. 12 line 57), and requiring an organization other than the first organization to provide services to the customer (col. 12 line 53+). With regard to claims 2-5, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art that any number of organizations could provide services or ship products to the customer (col. 12 line 53+). With regard to claims 6 and 7, receipt of services/products by the customer is verified (col. 11 line 1+). With regard to claims 8-12, the payment is a

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predetermined amount based on the order (col. 11 line 15+) and the payment is tracked using a computer (col. 11 line 42+).

3. Claims 13-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Webber, Jr. alone.

With regard to claims 13, 18, and 19, Webber discloses a method for a first organization (direct marketer in example, col. 12 line 43+) to do business that includes requiring a second organization (winery) to take an order from a customer on behalf of the first organization and requiring a third organization (wine shipper) that distributes the ordered item to ship the item to the customer (col. 12 line 57). In the event of any disputes or problems (exceeded credit limits, etc.), the first organization is contacted (col. 12 line 5+) and an appropriate billing strategy is determined the each order (col. 11 line 15+). With regard to the dependent claims, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art that any number of organizations could ship products to the customer (col. 12 line 53+), that notifications regarding shipments containing a variety of information could be sent to various parties (col. 10 line 53+, col. 11 line 1+, common practice), and that any problems arising due to late or incomplete orders could be resolved in a conventional manner (col. 12 line 5+).

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Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Postrel discloses a system that allows a user to accumulate redeemable points from a variety of entities and redeem them through a third party. Walker et al. disclose a purchase offer system wherein customers purchase services from a provider through the system. Matsumori discloses a system that allows customers to select and purchase goods from a grocery store using a network system and have the goods delivered by another party.

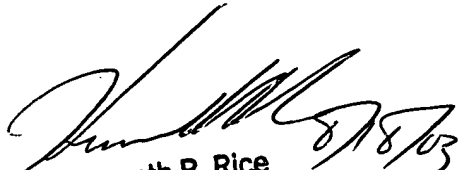
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher R Buchanan whose telephone number is 703-306-5782. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 9-7.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on 703-308-5183. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7687 for regular communications and 703-305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

CRB

Christopher Buchanan
August 15, 2003


Kenneth R. Rice
Primary Examiner